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SOLAR/1040-79/04

Monthly Performance Report

SADDLE HILL TRUST
LOT 77
APRIL 1979





National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program

NOTICE _

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MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

SADDLE HILL TRUST LOT 77

APRIL 1979

I. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Saddle Hill Trust Lot 77 is a single-family residence in Medway, Massachusetts. Solar energy is used for preheating incoming city water. The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 78 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 38 degrees to the horizontal. Air is used as the medium for delivering solar energy from the collector array to an air-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the collector air duct. Water is the medium used to transport solar energy from the heat exchanger to storage. Solar energy is stored in the basement in a 120-gallon preheat storage tank. This preheated city water is supplied, on demand, to a conventional 40-gallon domestic-hot-water (DHW) tank. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the hot water requirements, the gas-driven DHW heater provides auxiliary energy for water heating. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has two modes of solar operation.

Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage: This mode activates when the difference between the temperature of the collector air and the temperature of the water in the preheat tank exceeds 40°F and the temperature of the water in the tank is below 140°F. Both the fan and pump go on. This mode continues until the temperature difference drops to 20°F.

Mode 2 - Storage-to-Space Heating: This mode activates when there is a demand for hot water. Hot water from the top of the preheat tank is transferred to the DHW tank to replace water removed. Simultaneously, city water is automatically supplied to the preheat tank.

II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied in April and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 33 percent of the DHW requirements. The solar energy system provided fossil fuel energy savings of 1.0 million Btu and incurred an electrical energy expense of 0.12 million Btu.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 2.9 million Btu for a daily average of 1239 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during April of 1372 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of

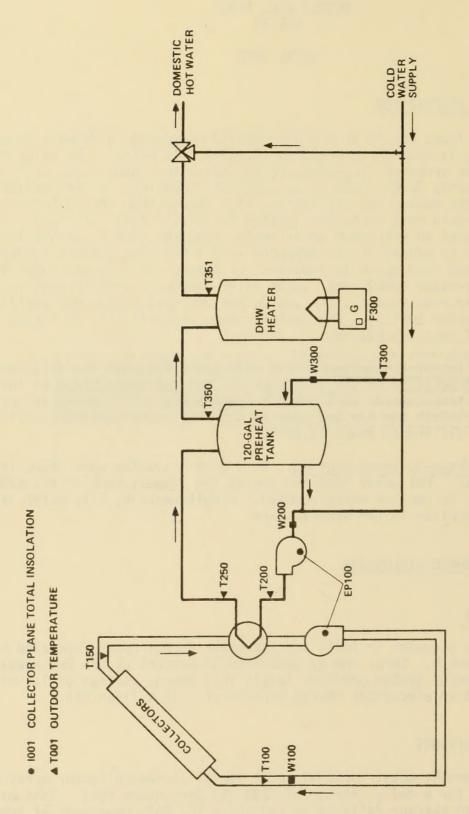


Figure 1. SADDLE HILL TRUST, LOT NO. 77, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

42 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during April was 47°F as compared with the long-term average for April of 49°F.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

<u>System</u> - During April the solar energy system performed approximately the same as expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as inputs. Solar energy collected was 0.87 million Btu versus an estimated 0.69 million Btu. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 0.67 million Btu. System total solar fraction was 33 percent versus an estimated 32 percent.

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of April was 2.9 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating the total insolation amounted to 2.4 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of April was 0.87 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 30 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to the DHW subsystem amounted to 0.67 million Btu. Energy loss during transfer from the collector array to the DHW subsystem was 0.20 million Btu. This loss represented 23 percent of the energy collected. Operating energy required by the collector loop was 0.12 million Btu.

<u>DHW Load</u> - The DHW subsystem consumed 0.67 million Btu of solar energy and 2.5 million Btu of auxiliary fossil fuel energy to satisfy a hot water load of 1.8 million Btu. The solar fraction of this load was 33 percent. Losses from the DHW subsystem were 0.37 million Btu. A daily average of 73 gallons of DHW was consumed at an average temperature of 141°F delivered from the tank.

OBSERVATIONS

The losses from the DHW subsystem were partly attributed to the relatively high DHW average temperature of 141°F.

ENERGY SAVINGS

The solar energy system provided a fossil fuel energy savings of 1.0 million Btu and incurred an electrical energy expense of 0.12 million Btu.

III. ACTION STATUS

No action is required at this time.

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